

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

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1. A device to actuate a drive gear of an adjustment mechanism of a seat with a switching mechanism manually operable in two directions by means of a swiveling lever that is rotationally connected with said drive gear in order to rotate it, comprising:  
a release mechanism providing a releasable rotational connection between said stepped switching mechanism and said drive gear.
  2. The device as in claim 1, wherein said stepped switching mechanism is rotationally connected with said drive gear via an intermediate gear, and wherein said intermediate gear may be displaced and thus disengaged from contact with said drive gear.
  3. The device as in claim 1, wherein said swiveling lever includes a linkage device serving as said release mechanism and operable to release said rotational connection between said stepped switching mechanism and said drive gear.
  4. The device as in claim 2, wherein said intermediate gear is mounted free to rotate about a fixed axis.
  5. The device as in Claim 4, wherein said fixed axis coincides with said rotational axis of said swiveling lever.

6. The device as in claim 1, wherein said intermediate gear is mounted on a swing lever that is pre-tensioned by a spring urging said intermediate gear in engagement with said drive gear, and wherein said intermediate gear may be releasably coupled to said swiveling lever by means of said release mechanism.

7. The device as in claim 1, wherein said drive gear is a part of a tilt adjustment mechanism for a seat back, and wherein said seat back is pre-tensioned along the direction of travel by a spring.

8. The device as in claim 1, wherein said drive gear is part of a reducing transmission.

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